

Falcon Focus

News for Neighborhood Watch Leaders in the Falcon Patrol District

Help "H.E.A.T." Up The Fight Against Auto Theft

With the goal of reducing property crime in our city a top priority, the Mesa Police Department is once again hosting a H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Automobile Theft) program. This event will be held at the Superstition District Police substation.

The H.E.A.T. program's focus is to help residents keep their cars from being stolen. Since the program's inception, Mesa has seen a 15.5 percent decrease in automobile theft. In addition, the Crime Prevention Unit recently received a 2003-2004 Public Awareness Grant in the amount of \$10,390 from the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority to purchase VIN (vehicle identification number) etching equipment and auto theft prevention materials.

At H.E.A.T. events, members of the department's Crime Prevention and Auto Theft Units are available to etch vehicle identification numbers on car windows. In addition, Mesa residents can obtain a free steering wheel lock by signing up for the statewide "Watch Your Car" program, and receive information on auto theft prevention. Participation in the "Watch Your Car" program enables officers to pull over enrolled vehicles if they are spotted driving during the peak theft hours of 1 to 5 a.m.

VIN etching, free steering-wheel locks, and bait vehicles have all helped in reducing the number of vehicle thefts in Mesa. In addition, citizens are taking responsibility for their property and making sure it is secure as well.

Through H.E.A.T. events, the Mesa Police Department has already handed out 1,322 steering wheel locks and performed more than 300 VIN-etchings. Approximately 4,103 Mesa residents are currently enrolled in the "Watch Your Car" program. For more information, please contact Holly Hosac, crime prevention specialist, at (480) 644-2033.

Next H.E.A.T. Event

Thursday, November 13
2—6 p.m.

Superstition Police Substation
2430 S. Ellsworth Road

www.cityofmesa.org/police/clubs.asp

Key Points to Auto Theft Prevention:

- Lock the doors and roll up the windows.
- Take the keys with you.
- Hide valuables if you must leave them in your car.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas.
- Keep your title in a secure place, not in the car.

Need Neighborhood Watch information ASAP?

Mesa's Web site is just a mouse click away! You can find loads of useful Neighborhood Watch information, as well as other information about the police department's many programs and services.

www.cityofmesa.org/police

R.A.D.

Rape Aggression Defense Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked?

The Rape Aggression Defense System is a two-part class for women of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. The RAD System is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reductions and avoidance, while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training.

This program is taught through Mesa Parks and Recreation by certified instructors with the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit. For more information, visit www.cityofmesa.org/police/rad.asp on the Web or contact the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit at (480) 644-2300, option 5. Registration must be done through Mesa Parks and Recreation. Call (480) 644-4804 for registration information.

How to Reach Us:

Mesa Police Department
Community Relations Unit
130 N. Robson Street
Mesa, AZ 85201-6697

Jerry Quarles
Falcon District
Neighborhood Watch
(480) 644-2539
Jerry.quarles@cityofmesa.org

Falcon Block Captain Appreciation Evening

Thursday, February 12th

6 to 8 p.m.

Public Safety Training Facility

3260 N. 40th Street, Mesa

Watch your mail for further information!

Calendar of Events

November 4 & 6, 2003

Rape Aggression Defense

5 to 9:30 p.m.

Red Mountain

Multigenerational Center

November 13, 2003

Help Eliminate Auto Theft Event

2 to 6 p.m.

Superstition Substation

2430 S. Ellsworth Road

February 12, 2004

Falcon Captain's Meeting

6 to 8 pm.

Public Safety Training Facility

3260 N. 40th Street, Mesa

Another Great Year for G.A.I.N.

More than 130 Neighborhood Watch and Crime Free Apartments participated in the 6th Annual GAIN night on Oct. 4. This year, there were 34 registered parties in the Central District and 26 registered parties in the Dobson District. However big or small, each group had one thing in common: *They were all promoting the Neighborhood Watch program in their neighborhoods.*

Many City departments and members of the City Council joined the Police Department specialty units in celebrating GAIN with several thousand residents. This event provides an opportunity for people to reacquaint themselves with their neighbors and strengthen the bonds within their community. It also allows them to meet their local beat officer, local fire fighters and City representatives. This evening wouldn't have been a success, however, without its most important element—you! Once again, thank you Block Watch Captains!

Save the date -- make plans to attend Mesa's third neighborhood conference on Jan. 31

Make plans to attend ***Working Together: Growing Great Neighborhoods***, the City of Mesa's third neighborhood conference. The fun begins 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St. CBS 5 news anchor Jon DuPre will be the master of ceremonies.

Once again, the conference will feature an expo with displays and information about City and community resources. Get answers to your questions about neighborhood services, utilities conservation, planning division, Arizona Museum for Youth, the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mesa Family YMCA, SRP Turf & Plant Management, The Leadership Centre and more!

Also at the conference, Mayor Keno Hawker and the City Council are scheduled to present the Spirit of Mesa Neighborhood Awards.

Conference registration materials will be available in December. For more information, logon to www.cityofmesa.org/neighsvc/ conference or call (480) 644-5700.



Food For Thought

If you have **BULK** mail stopped at the post office, you will not receive mailings from the Crime Prevention Unit since we send mail by bulk. You can be added to the Neighborhood Watch electronic mail list by providing me an e-mail address to ensure you are getting all the news and invitations related to Neighborhood Watch.

Come out and choose from a wide variety of activities and enjoy refreshments with your neighbors. Whether you're looking to strengthen your skills or want information about becoming more active in your neighborhood, the conference offers something for everyone. Neighborhood leaders will share their success stories in an inspiring keynote presentation.

Attend workshops to learn all about organizing your neighborhood, making your neighborhood safe and attractive, homeowners associations, neighborhood resources, historic preservation and expert landscape advice for a beautiful neighborhood.